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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,996	11/14/2001	Bernd Halbrock	65857-0037	8824

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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/993,996

Applicant(s)

HALBROCK ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron M Dunwoody

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 12. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

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- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Title headings are missing.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Delete line 19 of page 2 and lines 16-17 of page 5, because the specification is intended to support and breathe life into the claims, not vice versa.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claims 24-28 been renumbered 25-29.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 15-17, and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5645301, Kingsford et al.

In regards to claim 1, Kingsford et al discloses a quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising a first connecting element (130) that includes an annular first support surface, an inclined surface, and an annular receptacle space (156) with a first sealing surface and a second sealing surface, an annular sealing element (164) that is arranged in the receptacle space and adapted to contact the first and second sealing surfaces, a second connecting element (132) that includes a third sealing surface and an annular second support surface adapted to contact the first annular support surface, and a wedge-clamping device (173) that includes a clamping wedge adapted to contact the inclined surface of the first connecting element.

In regards to claim 15, Kingsford et al discloses the annular sealing element being an O-ring.

In regards to claim 16, Kingsford et al discloses the third sealing surface being adapted to contact the annular sealing element.

In regards to claim 17, Kingsford et al discloses the first and second support surfaces being planar.

In regards to claim 22, Kingsford et al discloses the second connecting element including an annular flange with a clamping surface.

In regards to claim 23, Kingsford et al discloses the clamping wedge further including a locking device (172).

In regards to claim 24, Kingsford et al discloses the clamping wedge being made from plastic.

In regards to claim 25, Kingsford et al discloses a support device.

In regards to claim 26, Kingsford et al discloses the support device being adapted to be located between the first and the second annular support surfaces.

Claims 1 and 15-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 1224593.

In regards to claim 1, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses a quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising a first connecting element that includes an annular first support surface, an inclined surface, and an annular receptacle space with a first sealing surface and a second sealing surface, an annular sealing element that is arranged in the receptacle space and adapted to contact the first and second sealing surfaces, a second connecting element that includes a third sealing surface and an annular second support surface adapted to contact the first annular support surface, and a wedge-clamping device that includes a clamping wedge adapted to contact the inclined surface of the first connecting element.

In regards to claim 15, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the annular sealing element being an O-ring.

In regards to claim 16, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the third sealing surface being adapted to contact the annular sealing element.

In regards to claim 17, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the first and second support surfaces being planar.

In regards to claim 18, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the wedge-clamping device including at least one clamp opening adapted to have the clamping wedge inserted therein.

In regards to claim 19, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the wedge-clamping device including two parallel clamp openings.

In regards to claim 20, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the clamp openings being formed by grooves.

In regards to claim 21, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the grooves being wedge grooves.

In regards to claim 22, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the second connecting element including an annular flange with a clamping surface.

In regards to claim 23, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the clamping wedge further including a locking device.

In regards to claim 24, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the clamping wedge being made from plastic.

In regards to claim 25, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses each clamping opening being associated with a clamping wedge and the two clamping wedges being connected by a crosspiece.

In regards to claim 26, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses a support device.

In regards to claim 27, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses the support device being adapted to be located between the first and the second annular support surfaces.

In regards to claim 28, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses a quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising a first connecting element that includes an annular first support surface, an inclined surface, and an annular receptacle space with a first sealing surface and a second sealing surface, an annular sealing element that is arranged in the receptacle space and adapted to contact the first and second sealing surfaces, a second connecting element that includes a third sealing surface and an annular second support surface adapted to contact the first annular support surface, and a wedge-clamping device that includes two clamping wedge adapted to contact the inclined surface of the first connecting element and includes two clamp openings adapted to have the clamping wedges inserted therein wherein the two clamping wedges are connected by a crosspiece.

In regards to claim 29, in figures 1-6, JP 1224593 discloses a quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising a first connecting element that includes an annular first support surface, an inclined surface, and an annular receptacle space with a first sealing surface and a second sealing surface, an annular sealing element that is arranged in the receptacle space and adapted to contact the first and second sealing

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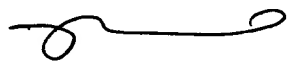
surfaces, a second connecting element that includes a third sealing surface and an annular second support surface adapted to contact the first annular support surface, a wedge-clamping device that includes a clamping wedge adapted to contact the inclined surface of the first connecting element, and a support device is adapted to be located between the first and the second annular support surfaces.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is (703) 306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday between 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

.amd
February 10, 2003


Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3670